



BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong, healthy relationships are important throughout your life. They can impact your mental and physical well-being. As a child you learn the social skills you need to form and maintain relationships with others. But at any age you can learn ways to improve your relationships. It's important to know what a healthy relationship looks like and how to keep your connections supportive.

TO BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS:

- **Respect others.** Treat others the way you would like to be treated. You should respect others' feelings, beliefs, and opinions.
- **Share your feelings honestly.** Express your thoughts and feelings in a clear and honest way.
- **Ask for what you need from others.** Communicate your needs and expectations.
- **Listen to others without judgement or blame.** Be caring and empathetic.
- **Disagree with others respectfully.** Avoid personal attacks.
- **Avoid being overly critical, angry outbursts, and violent behavior.**
- **Expect others to treat you with respect and honesty in return.**
- **Compromise.** Try to come to agreements that work for everyone.
- **Protect yourself from violent and abusive people.** Set boundaries with others. Decide what you are and aren't willing to do. It's okay to say no.
- **Learn the differences between healthy, unhealthy, and abusive ways of relating to others.** Visit www.thehotline.org/healthy-relationships/relationship-spectrum.